

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2005, wherein the Examiner formally withdrew the prior rejection of the claims based on the combination of the teachings in Forbes and McKinney, and has issued a new rejection based on the teaching in the patented Banks. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Particularly, in the October 20 Office Action, the Examiner rejects all the pending claims as either anticipated by or rendered obvious over the teaching in Banks, U.S. Patent No. 4,921,702.

While Banks arguably teaches an absorbent material comprising a permeable inner layer, an impermeable outer layer and liquid absorbing particles comprising cross-linked sodium polyacrylate disposed therebetween, the Banks teaching has nothing to do with a waste collection pad for collecting liquid animal excrement, which is precisely to what the claimed invention is directed. Rather, Banks is directed to an absorbent sheet material for the use and treatment of plant wounds. In particular, Banks' sheet material is taught to be applied over a plant wound in order to provide enhanced absorbency of exuded sap or latex. There is simply no suggestion whatsoever in the Banks patent of the application of the sheet material as an animal waste collection pad.

Accordingly, independent claims 5 and 13 have been amended to recite that the disposable absorbent article is adapted to be worn by an animal (along where the liquid waste is excreted) and is suitable for collecting the animal's liquid waste. Moreover, newly added independent claim 29 is directed to a method for effectively collecting liquid animal waste having the steps of forming a disposable absorbent article that includes an absorbent layer comprising acidic, super-absorbent polymer granules,

adhering the super-absorbent polymer granules directly to the back sheet of the article, and applying the article to an animal (where the liquid waste is excreted) in order to absorb and neutralize the excreted waste. There is simply no suggestion of this method in the Banks teaching.

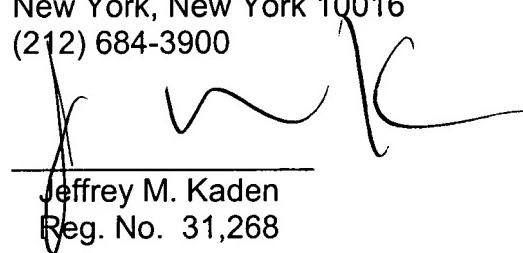
Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims 2-8, 10-14, 16-18 and 29-35, all the claims pending in the application, are directed to allowable subject matter.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 07-1730.

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